**Judy Serritella Exemplary Library Media Program**

The Judy Serritella Exemplary Library Media Program was created to recognize those library media programs that empower students to be critical thinkers, enthusiastic readers, skillful researchers, and ethical users of information both in vision and in practice. Exemplary library media programs are a model for innovation, student empowerment, and leadership in the school library community.

Each year, the Georgia Library Media Association (GLMA) and Georgia Library Association (GLA) will recognize and honor three exemplary Georgia Library Media Programs (one from each level).

**Criteria:**

* The school library media specialist applying for the award must hold membership in either GLMA or GLA at the time of application submission.
* Schools must have been in existence a minimum of three years before applying.
* Previous recipients of this award may not apply for ten years after being honored as Exemplary.
* Names of the school, district, and school librarian should appear ONLY on the front page, not the narrative, in order to ensure impartial judging
* Application deadline is mid-March.

Name

Email Address

School Name

School Grade Level

Principal/Administrator

Principal Email Address

Superintendent

Superintendent Email Address

Library Media Coordinator Media Coordinator Email Address

\*If you have a System Media Coordinator, please make sure they are aware of this program, your application, and that they endorse your participation in the Exemplary Library Media Program.

The Library Media Specialist is a member of (check all that apply)

* Georgia Library Association (GLA)
* Georgia Library Media Association (GLMA)

**Vision**

As outlined in Empowering Learners, "the mission of the school library program is to ensure that students and staff are effective users of ideas and information. The school librarian empowers students to be critical thinkers, enthusiastic readers, skillful researchers, and ethical users of information. "

As you describe the vision for your library media program, you should include the following elements:

* Describe the school library program mission, goals, and objectives, including how they relate to the mission, goals, and objectives of the school and district.
* Describe your vision for the role of reading as a foundational skill for student learning, personal growth, and enjoyment.
* Describe your approach to student research including inquiry as a framework for learning.
* Describe your vision of how the school library program can ensure equitable access to books, information, and technology in a safe environment.

**Building Collaborative Partnerships**

Describe how your library media program builds collaborative partnerships by addressing the following elements:

* Planning with classroom teachers and other educators to cultivate interactive, relevant learning experiences for students.
* Serving on faculty/grade level teams and building level committees.
* Participating in a greater professional learning community including public library, local community organizations, conferences, social media forums, etc.

**The Role of Reading**

Describe how your library media program promotes reading as a foundational skill for learning, personal growth, and enjoyment by addressing the following elements:

* How your collection promotes current, high-quality, high-interest collections of books and other reading resources in multiple formats.
* Initiatives to encourage and engage learners in reading, writing, and listening for understanding and enjoyment.

**Teaching For Learning**

Describe how your library media program impacts student engagement and achievement through innovative instructional practices by addressing the following elements:

* Promotes critical thinking by connecting learners with information in multiple formats.
* Models emerging technologies for curating information, presenting data, and creating new understandings.
* Uses formative assessments to guide learners to assess their progress.

**Building the Learning Environment**

Describe the learning environment of your library media program that addresses the following elements:

* Shows evidence of an integrated library program staffed with a full-time library media specialist, and where classes are flexible scheduled, when possible, into the library to facilitate research, training, and utilization of technology.
* Works with administrators to ensure that the library media program is adequately staffed so that students have equitable access to the media center and its resources throughout the day.
* Designs inviting learning spaces that accommodate a range of teaching methods, learning tasks, and learning outcomes.
* Provides 24/7 access to a virtual collection through a website, learning management system, or social networking; physical collection is accessible to all and reflects diversity of student population.

**Empowering Learning Through Leadership**

Describe how your library media program models leadership by addressing the following elements:

* Serves as a leader of the local school media committee.
* Is a visionary in planning for the future and continually retooling to meet challenges.
* Participates in the decision-making process for school and/or district programs.
* Shows leadership beyond the school through published works (professional communications, including digital and social media formats), formal presentations and/or formal recognition or awards.

**Letter(s) of Endorsement**

Upload a letter of support from current year's principal, assistant principal, or superintendent that describes the rationale and philosophy of support for the library media program.